up:o Amritsar w.e.f. 1-7-1994 are available betwee$_n$ Delhi and Amritsar. Out of these 9 pairs arc stopping at Beas, Special trains for Radhaswamics are also run every year between Delhi and Beas.

Iniroduciion of a new train between Delhi and Amritsar is presently not feasible due to operational reasons and resource constraints.

Modernisaion of Railway Staions in Howrah Division

209. SHRI JOYANTA ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of I he fact that thousands of passengers in-cluding several hundreds commuters travel daily between Howrah and Azimgunj in Howrah Division and between Seajdah and Lalgola in Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railway covering the distance of nearly 230 km anj 260 km respectively and n$_0$ steps excepting increase in number of few trains have been taken for the modernisation of these two sec-lions since independence;

(b) if so. whether Government have any scheme to modernise these two sections of Eastern Railway and what is the present stage *ol* the development process; and

(c) if not, whether Government would lake appropriate measures to modernise these two sections by introduction of EMU trains by electrification, construction cf double tracks'.'

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF^: (a) and ib). EMU services are already available between Howrah-Bandel and Sealdah-Krishnanagar sections. Improvement has been brought in service$_s$ on Bandel-Kalwa-Azimgunj and Krishna naear-Laloola sections through diese'isa-lion. revision of time table and intro-duction of ne$_w$ trains Electrification of Bandel-Katwa Section is in progress and is targetted &>i completion by December. 1995. Further work relating to pro-viding 3 additional crossing stations on Bandel-Katwa sections is also in progress.

(c) EMU services will be planned on Bandel-Katwa section on commissioning of electrification. Doubling of Bandel-Katwa-A Kimganj and Ranaghat-Krisnna nagar-Lalgola sections is not considered justified with the present level of raffle.

Derailment of Trains

210. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to stale:

(a) what is the percentage of derailments out of the total train accidents during the last two years;

(b) what is the average number of de-railments per month during the first eight months of the current year;

(c) what is the average number of deiailments; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce derailments?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C K. JAFFER SHARIEF);

(a) Derailments formed 78 per cent of train accidents during the last two years.

(b) T$_n$ the first 8 months of the cur rent financial year, on an average, 34 de railments occurred per month.

(c) the derailments generally occur due to failure of equipment viz. railway track and rolling stock; lapses by engineering. mechanical, running and station staff and sabotage, etc

(d) Safety measures are continuously undertaken to prevent derailments. Some of them are :—

(i) Planned renewal and rehabilitation of overaged assets like track, rolling stock and bridges.